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Professor LOCKYER, whose dissociation theory requires a deep solar atmosphere, with a considerable range of temperature between its upper and lower levels. Mr. SHACKELTON's photograph has been examined by Professor YOUNG, and fully bears out his conclusions. E. S. H.

GIFT OF MISS BRUCE TO THE OBSERVATORY OF PRAGUE.

"The Director of the Observatory of Prague, Professor L. WEINEK, has received from Miss CATHERINE W. BRUCE, the high-minded patroness and well-wisher of astronomy in America, the sum of 2439 florins (\$1000) for the publication of the large photographic Moon-Atlas begun by him in 1893."—*Prager Abendblatt*, March 3, 1897.

MEASURES OF *SIRIUS*.

Both of the following measures were made with the thirty-six-inch telescope, using a 520-power eye-piece. *Sirius* was a few minutes east of the meridian each night, and the atmospheric conditions were fair.

Date.	<i>p.</i>	<i>s.</i>
1897.203	184. <sup>o</sup> 9	3."98
1897.206	185. <sup>o</sup> 3	3."92

R. G. AITKEN.

March 16, 1897.

LATITUDE OF THE LICK OBSERVATORY.

The mean value of the normal\* latitude,  $\phi_0$ , derived from observations with the meridian-circle in the interval between September, 1893, and June, 1896, is—

- 37° 20' 25''.66 from about 1400 observations of 86 Berliner Jahrbuch equatorial stars;
- 37° 20' 25''.47 from about 1000 observations of 45 Berliner Jahrbuch circumpolar stars; and
- 37° 20' 25''.85 from 160 observations of 22 Berliner Jahrbuch zenith stars.

The correction for bisection and various systematic errors of observation should be largely eliminated from the mean of cir-

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\* Corrected for CHANDLER's Variation.

cumpolar and equatorial results. The bisection correction is eliminated from the zenith determinations, made facing north and south alternately, for the same star.

Some of the B. J. declinations of zenith stars have undoubtedly large errors; the declinations of the *American Ephemeris* would reduce the observed latitude by  $0''.23$  for sixteen of these stars. The normal latitude  $\phi_0 = 37^\circ 20' 25''.6$ —corresponding to the epoch 1895.1 may be adopted as the best value furnished by the series of observations made in this period.

R. H. TUCKER.

#### THE INTERNATIONAL ASTROGRAPHIC CHARTS.

"The fourth *r union* of the Comit  Permanent was held in Paris in May. The reports furnished by the Directors of the co-operating observatories show that satisfactory progress has been made in two-thirds of them. Owing to political or financial difficulties, the work has not yet begun at Santiago de Chili, La Plata, and Rio Janeiro, and is seriously hampered at several other observatories.

The following table shows how far the photo-mapping has advanced in the different zones:—

	Zone.	No. of Fields Assigned.	No. taken for Cat.	No. taken for Chart.	
Greenwich. . . . .	+90 to +65	1149	728	472	213 plates measured; 102 plate constants determined.
Rome. . . . .	+64 to +55	1040	280	100	—
Catania. . . . .	+54 to +47	1008	21	None.	—
Helsingfors. . . . .	+46 to +40	1008	1008	A few.	160 plates measured and partly reduced.
Potsdam. . . . .	+39 to +32	1232	500	A few.	35,000 stars measured.
Oxford. . . . .	+31 to +25	1180	800	None.	40,000 stars measured on 160 plates.
Paris. . . . .	+24 to +18	1260	1155	Not stated.	318 plates measured, 60 reduced.
Bordeaux. . . . .	+17 to +11	1260	300	60	Measures to be begun soon.
Toulouse. . . . .	+10 to + 5	1080	150	350	70 plates measured.
Algiers. . . . .	+ 4 to - 2	1260	1000	64	168 plates measured with 32,000 stars.
San Fernando. . . . .	- 3 to - 9	1260	1260	About 400.	50 plates measured once and 25 twice.
Tacubaya. . . . .	-10 to -16	1260	529	Not stated.	Measuring to begin soon.
Santiago de Chili. . . . .	-17 to -23	1260	—	—	—
La Plata. . . . .	-24 to -31	1360	—	—	—
Rio Janeiro. . . . .	-32 to -40	1376	—	—	—
Cape of Good Hope. . . . .	-41 to -51	1512	1512	Nearly half.	30 plates measured.
Sydney. . . . .	-52 to -64	1400	1393	1112	—
Melbourne. . . . .	-65 to -90	1149	703	A few.	—

Examination of this table shows that (omitting altogether the three South American observatories which have not yet com-